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Viewing cable 10QUITO33, New Foreign Minister Patino from Left Side of Correa's

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Understanding cables

Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cables unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables ([browse by origin](#) to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

To understand the justification used for the classification of each cable, please use this [WikiSource](#) article as reference.

Discussing cables

If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at the paragraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tags **#cablegate** and a hash containing the reference ID e.g. **#10QUITO33**.

Reference ID	Created	Released	Classification	Origin
10QUITO33	2010-01-21 23:21	2011-08-30 01:44	SECRET//NOFORN	Embassy Quito

Appears in these articles:

<http://www.eluniverso.com/2011/04/12/1/1355/cable-244780.html>

VZCZCXYZ0000
OO RUEHWEB

DE RUEHQT #0033/01 0212321
ZNY SSSSS ZZH
O R 212321Z JAN 10
FM AMEMBASSY QUITO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0676
INFO RHMFISS/CDR USSOUTHCOM MIAMI FL
RHMFISS/HQ USSOUTHCOM MIAMI FL
RUEHBO/AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS
RUEHGL/AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL
RUEHLP/AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
RUEHPE/AMEMBASSY LIMA
RUEHQT/AMEMBASSY QUITO

S E C R E T QUITO 000033

SIPDIS
NOFORN

E.O. 12958: DECL: 25X1- HUMAN
TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [EFIN](#) [PTER](#) [EC](#) [VE](#)
SUBJECT: New Foreign Minister Patino from Left Side of Correa's Circle

REF: QUITO 5; 094 QUITO 841; 08 QUITO 1062; 07 QUITO 1607

...

id: 244780
date: 1/21/2010 23:21
refid: 10QUITO33
origin: Embassy Quito
classification: SECRET//NOFORN
destination: 06QUITO2937|07QUITO1607|07QUITO290|08QUITO1062|10QUITO5|94QUITO841
header:
VZCZCXYZ0000
OO RUEHWEB

DE RUEHQT #0033/01 0212321
ZNY SSSSS ZZH
O R 212321Z JAN 10
FM AMEMBASSY QUITO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0676
INFO RHMFISS/CDR USSOUTHCOM MIAMI FL
RHMFISS/HQ USSOUTHCOM MIAMI FL
RUEHBO/AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS
RUEHGL/AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL
RUEHLP/AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
RUEHPE/AMEMBASSY LIMA
RUEHQT/AMEMBASSY QUITO

----- header ends -----

S E C R E T QUITO 000033

SIPDIS
NOFORN

E.O. 12958: DECL: 25X1- HUMAN
TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [EFIN](#) [PTER](#) [EC](#) [VE](#)
SUBJECT: New Foreign Minister Patino from Left Side of Correa's Circle

REF: QUITO 5; 094 QUITO 841; 08 QUITO 1062; 07 QUITO 1607
07 QUITO 290; 06 QUITO 2937

CLASSIFIED BY: Andrew Chritton, Charge d'Affaires; REASON: 1.4(D)

[1](#)1. (C) Summary: On January 21, President Rafael Correa named Ricardo Patino as Ecuador's foreign minister, applauding Patino's loyalty to Correa's political project and great ideological consistency. A political fixer in Correa's small inner circle, Patino has had very limited contact with the Embassy. Patino announced that his first priorities would be promoting the UNASUR-U.S. relationship and an Amazon rainforest conservation project called Yasuni-ITT. President Correa's disapproval of the MFA's handling of the Yasuni-ITT project triggered former FM Falconi's resignation (ref A). Patino's appointment suggests an renewed ideological cast to Foreign Ministry actions, which could easily slow or impede U.S. initiatives. End summary.

[1](#)2. (S/NF) Patino has been the liaison between the Executive and the National Assembly and involved in organizing the PAIS movement's committees of the citizens' revolution. The founder of Ecuador's branch of Jubilee 2000 (a debt forgiveness international NGO), he influenced the GOE position on nonpayment and seeking a deep discount on certain commercial debt. He left the Finance Minister's office in 2007 after allegations that he manipulated the debt market. GRPO sources have alleged that Patino received funds for the Correa campaign from Venezuela and the FARC. More detailed biographic information follows.

[1](#)3. (S/NF) BIOGRAPHY

A trusted confidant of President Rafael Correa, Richard Patino has served in three ministerial positions in the Correa government: Political Coordination (since December 2007), the Coast (July to December 2007), and Economy and Finance (January to July 2007).

As Minister for Political Coordination, Patino has managed the Correa government's interactions with social groups, local governments, and the National Assembly. His work as the link between the Executive and the National Assembly has been criticized by the opposition and government allies. Assembly member Dalo Bucaram of the government-aligned Ecuadorian Roldosist Party (PRE) told us that Patino stood in the way of an open dialogue between the Executive and the Assembly's political parties. The PRE requested that Patino no longer serve as the link to the Assembly, but Correa ratified him in that position. President Correa's estranged brother Fabricio has called Patino a terrorist and criticized him for giving orders to the National Assembly. Patino has participated in an array of negotiations with social movements on different topics, including indigenous demands, flour subsidies, transportation issues, pensions, and street vendors' rights. A staffer with the National Electoral Council (CNE) told us that an official working for Patino called all the shots at the CNE.

Patino was involved in establishing Committees of the Citizens' Revolution of the Proud and Sovereign Fatherland (PAIS) Alliance (ref b). He refused to appear before a National Assembly commission on that subject, arguing that it was a party, not government, initiative.

One of the goals of the Ministry of Coordination of Politics, according to its website (www.mcpolitica.gov.ec), is to establish a relationship with political parties and organizations in the region with which the government has affinity. Patino's international role included accompanying Correa to an ALBA summit; promoting Plan Ecuador and the Yasuni-ITT initiative in Europe; travel to

Venezuela and Bolivia; and speaking for the government on the March 2008 Colombian incursion into northern Ecuador.

Patino was a member of a government-appointed debt audit commission, the report of which was used to justify the GOE's decision to default on part of its commercial debt in late 2008 (ref C). He was part of a government delegation that traveled to other countries to argue that the Ecuadorian foreign debt was illegitimate. His focus on the debt issue was apparent in 1999 when Patino helped establish the Ecuadorian branch of Jubilee 2000, an international NGO calling for forgiveness of developing country debt.

Patino's performance as Minister of Economics and Finance was controversial, and he struck Embassy staff at the time as inept on economics. He stated that Ecuador might not honor its international debt obligations, and then made the payments a few days later. In May 2007 a video became public where Patino made comments that seemed to imply manipulation of the debt market, for which he was censured by Congress (ref D). The Department of Justice and the Securities Exchange Commission initiated an investigation of him at that time (Post does not know the results). Patino's move to head the newly-created Ministry of the Coast in July 2007 isolated him from this scandal, but was considered a demotion. In theory the Ministry of the Coast oversees various sub-ministerial government offices in Guayaquil.

Former Ambassador Jewell made a courtesy call on Patino in February

2007 (ref E). During that meeting, Patino congratulated himself on the ease with which he prepared his first budget, called some debt illegitimate, and welcomed the opportunity to work with the USG on microfinance and supporting small businesses.

In 2006, Patino was the national political director for the PAIS Alliance, Correa's political movement, during the presidential campaign. Two separate GRPO sources, one highly credible, have alleged that Patino obtained and managed Venezuelan funds for Correa's campaign. An uncorroborated report from a GRPO source indicated that Patino also solicited funds from the FARC for Correa's campaign. In addition, Patino enlisted support for Correa from members of the former Ecuadorian terrorist group Alfaro Vive Carajo (ref F).

When Correa was Minister of Economy and Finance in 2005, Patino was his Chief of Staff and then his Vice Minister of Economy. Patino was the coordinator of the Technical Advisory Committee of the GOE's Inter-ministerial Employment Commission and an outside consultant for the International Labor Organization. He taught at the University of Guayaquil's Economics Department and the Superior Polytechnical School of the Coast.

Patino has a master's degree in development economics from the International University in Andalucia, Spain (2001). He obtained an undergraduate economics degree at the Autonomous Metropolitan University of Iztalapa, Mexico (1979). A press article reported that Patino supported the Sandinista National Liberation Front in Nicaragua after graduating in Mexico.

Patino was born in 1954 in Guayaquil (which is also Correa's home town). He is married to Miriam Alcivar and they have one daughter. According to Guayaquil sources, Patino is rumored to be homosexual. CHRITTON

=====CABLE ENDS=====